

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: THE SOVIET UNION AND THE TRADE ACT

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
ANDERSON'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 6:

QUOTE: Q: NOW THAT THE TRADE BILL IS LAW, WHAT IS THE
PROCEDURE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES
AFFECTED BY IT, ESPECIALLY AS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON?
WHAT HAPPENS? DOES THE EMBASSY NOW TAKE IT UP WITH THE
SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN MOSCOW, OR WHAT?

A: WELL, I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THERE WOULD BE DISCUSSIONS
POSSIBLY IN MOSCOW, BUT CERTAINLY THERE WILL BE FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS HERE IN WASHINGTON ON THE SUBJECT, YES.

Q: THIS IS ON THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL NOW?

A: DISCUSSIONS OF SUBJECTS OF THIS IMPORTANCE USUALLY DO
TAKE PLACE ON THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL HERE IN WASHINGTON,
YES.

Q: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY INDICATIONS BY THE SOVIETS IN
THESE TALKS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO RENEGE POSSIBLY ON THE
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1972 REPAYMENT OF LEND-LEASE, BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS

ATTACHED BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE TRADE BILL?

A: WELL, ON THAT, AS WE KNOW, THE SECRETARY MET WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ON DECEMBER 18. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER EXCHANGES, OTHER DISCUSSIONS. I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT THEY DISCUSSED. BUT WE KNOW FROM PUBLIC SOVIET STATEMENTS THAT CERTAIN, SHALL WE SAY, QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT CERTAIN RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION THAT HAS BEEN PASSED. FOR EXAMPLE, AS YOU JUST MENTIONED, THERE IS THE 18-MONTH RESTRICTION IN THE TRADE BILL. AND THIS DOES RAISE A QUESTION. OBVIOUSLY WE ARE GOING TO BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

Q: HAVE THEY RAISED THESE QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT?

A: YES, SURELY THEY HAVE. LOOK AT THE 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT, AND THEN TAKE THE 18-MONTH RESTRICTION THAT IS IN THE TRADE BILL WITH REGARD TO MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT. THIS IS A QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN RAISED AND WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AND WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

Q: ON THE TRADE BILL, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL STORIES SAYING THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE IS OVER. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT?

A: I DON'T THINK THE SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE IS OVER. THAT IS MY ONLY REACTION.

Q: YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE TRADE BILL, THEIR WANTING TO BRING UP THE '72 PACKAGE, INDICATES A COOLING OFF OR ANYTHING?

A: WELL, YOUR QUESTION WAS IS THE SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE OVER. MY ANSWER IS NO, SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE IS NOT OVER. I JUST GOT THROUGH SAYING THAT OUR TRADE LEGISLATION HAS RAISED A QUESTION, AND THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

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Q: YOU SINGLED OUT IN YOUR EXAMPLE THE 18-MONTH RESTRICTIVE PERIOD, OR THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD. BUT ISN'T IT TRUE THAT REALLY WHAT THE SOVIET UNION IS CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE 300 MILLION DOLLAR LIMIT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LEGISLATION? ISN'T THAT THE MAJOR ISSUE?

A: THIS IS A QUESTION, ANOTHER QUESTION. I AM SURE YOU

ALL CAN PROBABLY FIND OTHER QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN

RAISED, AND WE HAVE DEALT WITH THAT HERE. WE DEALT WITH
THE QUESTION OF THE EX-IM CREDIT RESTRICTION, 300 MILLION
DOLLARS OVER FOUR YEARS. WE HAD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION
OF THAT HERE ALREADY. THAT IS A QUESTION, YES, WHICH
WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED.

END QUOTE KISSINGER

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